

Senior Affairs Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Meeting called to order by B.J. Curry Spitler.

Members present: Millie Acasio, John Patrick Ford, Pauline Gilbert, Joe Horiye, Laura Impastato, BJ Curry Spitler, Nicholas Trunzo, Rosemary White-Pope **Not present:** Sam Duran, Flora Calem, Dolli Cutler, William Liu, Leane Marchese, **Staff:** Rudy Fernandez, Diana Gray, Pam Suarez, **Guest:** Judith Sorrells

Discussion:

The following topics were discussed:

- The Senior Affairs Advisory Board welcomed the transportation survey team from the San Diego Urban Corps. Ernesto Lucero, the field supervisor, introduced himself and two of the young workers he brought with him, Imelda Valencia and Elijah Baker, who will help to perform the survey.
- September 3, 2003 minutes were approved with one correction. Third paragraph, fourth sentence was amended to include letters in bold print: “Sharon estimated that approximately 7% of the homeless people that are served by the City of San Diego’s Winter Shelter Program **are senior citizens** (and these are generally chronic homeless – meaning they have spent years on the street).”
- **Housing Task Force:** Joe Horiye reported that the Housing Task Force had been waiting to push forward a housing advocacy issue because of the uncertainty of protocol. That has since been resolved and issues will be brought before the board for approval and forwarded on to Rudy Fernandez who will complete the protocol process.
- Joe Horiye and John Patrick Ford will cosponsor a half day mini seminar on affordable housing. During the discussion a question about what CCDC is doing to help out with affordable housing. Diana proposed to speak with Cathy Mahmud of the Redevelopment Agency to obtain information in this area.
- **Seniors Ride Free:** Rudy Fernandez reported that the recent death of John Kern’s mother has resulted in temporary reassignments of staff duties and functions. This has resulted in some delays in getting a response on the Seniors Ride Free initiative. MTDB has requested information to include statistical data that will support this request. Rudy Fernandez will check with the Community Service Centers. B.J. Spitler referred to the Report titled “The Unseen Many: A Needs Assessment Of Homeless And Near Homeless Seniors In San Diego” funded by Alliance Healthcare Foundation and dated August 1, 2002 for having much of the information that MTDB is requesting.
- **Transportation Survey:** Although Bill Liu is away in China, efforts are under way to begin the transportation survey. Bill is working with San Diego Urban Corps Suzanne Millman who supervises the staff who will perform the actual survey. Diana will get the information from Suzanne as to the survey area. Sam Duran plans to participate in the

field to assist with the actual survey. A letter of introduction from the Senior Affairs Advisory Board has been drafted for B.J.'s signature. Diana Gray will alert the appropriate Police precincts to notify them of the transportation survey being performed in their respective precincts. Millie Acasio volunteered to produce the picture I.D. badges for the interviewers. Diana has already had 1,000 copies of the survey along with survey instructions printed for the interviewers.

- Web Site: Nicholas Trunzo is working to set up a link between AIS and Network of Care to the City of San Diego Senior Affairs Advisory Board web page. Diana Gray recommended that Nicholas work with Eric Symons, the Public Information Officer for the Community and Economic Development Department. B.J. Spitler recommended that Nicholas and Diana meet with Eric to work through the process to get the sites linked. The current city site for the Senior Affairs Advisory Board needs to be updated. B.J. Spitler also noted that the minutes of the board need to be incorporated into the SAAB web site.
- Handling of Protocol: The handout on how to handle suggested protocol for the Senior Affairs Advisory Board issues had been distributed and discussed during a previous meeting. Members who were not present at that time were given copies at this time.
- Announcements/Closing Remarks:

Diana announced that the new meeting calendar for the next year would be prepared and distributed soon.

B. J. Spitler will be vacationing in South Africa during the months of March and April 2004. B.J. asked for volunteers to chair those two meetings. A decision was made to have John Patrick Ford chair the March 2004 meeting and to have Nicholas Trunzo chair the April 2004 meeting.

Rosemary White-Pope reported that through a feasibility study the 4th District Resource Center has obtained funding to provide a van and driver for seniors needing transportation to doctor appointments, shopping, and other important destinations. The van is available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for shopping and other days for special requests. This is a six-month pilot program. In January 2004, there will be an effort underway to renew the funding to extend the program past the original six months. Paulina Gilbert will get the information regarding this program onto the Stride website.

Joe Horiye announced the San Diego Affordable Housing Federation Forum scheduled for October 17, 2003, to be held at the Pt. Loma Nazarene University, at 3900 Lomaland Drive is open to the public.

Nicholas Trunzo later announced that the Aging Summit scheduled for April 19, 2004 (site yet to be determined) will be a report on the study researched by George Valanc on the First Five study of the benefits of social interaction between children ages 0-5 years and seniors.

Millie Acasio distributed the October edition of "The Scroll".

Next meeting: **December 3, 2003** at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Market Square Manor Senior Center located at 1429 Market in downtown San Diego.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.